

John Reichard House  
State Route 92 Vicinity  
Knoxville Vicinity  
Marion County  
Iowa

HABS No. IA-55

HABS  
IDWA,  
63-KNOX.V,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JOHN REICHARD HOUSE

HABS No. IA-55

HABS  
IOWA  
63-KNOX.V,  
1-

Location: Rural Marion County, Iowa, east of the city of Knoxville.

The house site was reached by traveling eastward along State Highway 92 approximately 3.5 miles from the city limits of Knoxville to a gravel road which crosses the highway, and then turning south on that gravel road and following it for approximately 0.7 miles. The plot on which the house stood comprised 31.88 acres and is described as the portion of the E $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 11 lying south of State Highway 92 in Township 75N, Range 19W of the 5th P. M. Scaled from a recent aerial photograph, which is at the scale of 102.2 feet to the inch, the southeast corner of the house is 790.0 feet west of the east boundary of the plot and 140.5 feet north of the south boundary (see Resolution, 1957, under "Original and subsequent owners" following).

Latitude: 41° 18' 23" North

Longitude: 90° 00' 26" West

Present owner: State of Iowa.

Last occupant: The house was unoccupied.

Last use: The previous owner was using the house for the storage of bales of hay when the house was measured in August 1976.

Significance: The significance of the house is principally architectural. Stylistically, it is an example of the Gothic Revival style of nineteenth-century American architecture. Buildings in the style were common by the 1840s and continued to be built in Iowa and elsewhere in America until well after the Civil War. Although the house walls are

brick, the scrollwork bargeboards and eaves, and the scrollwork at the entrance porch may be identified as Carpenter Gothic, an adaptation of the Gothic Revival style. The stilted square-topped arch motif of the porch, however, follows the Italianate style, extremely popular in the 1850s (6, pp. 40.42). For Iowans, one might suggest an added significance in the fact that the pointed-arch second-floor glazed door of the house, set in a steeply pitched gable wall, recalls the house that forms the background for the stern couple painted in Grant Wood's "American Gothic."

HISTORICAL REPORT

Dates of construction: 1864 or 1865. John Reichard purchased the land on 26 Feb. 1864 and could have built that year. The obituary of his youngest son, D. F. Reichard, states that this son was born on the Reichard homestead on 4 Feb. 1866, indicating that the house was occupied by that date (1). Thus construction would have most likely been completed before the winter of 1865-1866. Thus construction could have taken place in 1865, or during both 1865 and 1866. The use of factory-produced doors, windows, and moldings suggests that the house was constructed after the railway transportation needed to transport such things conveniently was available in the locality. The Des Moines Valley Railroad, which reached Ottumwa in 1860 and Des Moines in 1866, would have passed near the vicinity of Knoxville by 1864 or 1865 (2, p. 448; 4, p. 184).

Architect: It is not known that there was an architect, or if so who he was.

Builder, contractor, suppliers: Not known.

Original and subsequent owners:

1853 Certificate of Purchase, 11 July 1853, as shown by certified copy of Original Entries in the office of the Recorder of Marion County, Iowa.

State of Iowa

to

Jarius E. Neal

SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 11, Township 75 North, Range 19 West of  
5 PM. 40 acres.

1853 Warranty Deed, 8 Dec. 1853, filed 12 Dec. 1853 in  
Marion County, Iowa, Deed Records E, p. 278

Jarius E. Neal and Catherine Neal, his wife

to

Daneil Newman

Same property as mentioned in the previous transaction. For  
\$57.00.

1856 Warranty Deed, 9 Apr. 1856, filed 24 May 1856 in  
Marion County, Iowa, Deed Record G, p. 460

Daniel Newman and Martha Jane Newman, his wife

to

John J. Mothorn

Same property, plus the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the same section 11,  
plus other land; totaling 86 acres. For \$600.00.

1858 Patent, 1 July 1858, filed 18 Mar. 1918, recorded in  
Marion County, Iowa, Deed Record 52, p. 418

State of Iowa

to

Jarius E. Neal

Same property as mentioned in 1853 transactions. (The inappro-  
priate date is curious.)

1862 Warranty Deed, 21 April 1862, filed 26 Feb. 1864 in  
Marion County, Iowa, Deed Record M, p. 743

John J. Mothorn and Catherine Mothorn, his wife

to

John B. Funk

Same 86 acres as mentioned in 1856 transaction. For \$700.00.

1864 Warranty Deed, 26 Feb. 1864, filed 22 Dec. 1864 in  
Marion County, Iowa. Deed Record N, p. 480

John B. Funk and Jane R. Funk

to

John Reichard

Same 86 acres as mentioned in 1856 transaction. For \$975.00.

1865 Warranty Deed, 28 Nov. 1865, filed 19 May 1866 in  
Marion County, Iowa, Deed Record 1, p. 206

John Reichard and Rebecca Reichard

to

District Township of Knoxville of Marion County, Iowa

Conveys a parcel of land (132' x 264') along the west boundary of  
the Reichards' SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 11 for the site of a  
schoolhouse. The parcel reverts to the Reichards when use for a  
schoolhouse site ceases.

1875 Mortgage, 31 May 1875, filed 5 June 1875 in  
Marion County, Iowa, Mortgage Record 1, p. 538

John Reichard and Rebecca Reichard

to

Martha Rider of Yorke County Nebraska

E  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 11, Twp. 75 N of Range 19 W of 5 PM. Due  
31 May 1875. For \$500.00. A note in margin states that the  
mortgage was paid in full 31 Mar. 1879.

There were other mortgages; all were released.

1909 Probate, recorded in

Marion County, Iowa, Probate Record 38, p. 550

John Reichard died intestate 14 Jan. 1909 and was survived by:

Rebecca Reichard, his widow, age 78

Mary E. Stenz, daughter, age 50

Charles W. Reichard, son, age 48

D. F. Reichard, son, age 42

Mattie Johnston, daughter, age 45

Charles lived in Denver, Colorado; the rest lived in Knoxville.

At the time of his death, John Reichard owned the E  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$   
of Sec. 11, Twp. 75 N, Range 19 West of 5 PM, and other property.

1915 Death of Rebecca Reichard, widow, 2 Dec. 1915, recorded in

Marion County, Iowa, Death Record 3, p. 462

1918 Warranty Deed, 1 Apr. 1918, filed 6 Apr. 1918 in

Marion County, Iowa, Deed Record 54, p. 363

Charles W. Reichard and Sara Reichard, his wife

to

J. C. Stenz

Their undivided one-quarter interest in the property of the 1909 probate. For \$5750.00.

1918 Warranty Deed, 5 Apr. 1918, filed 6 Apr. 1918 in  
Marion County, Iowa, Deed Record 54, p. 364

Mary E. Stenz and P. M. Stenz, her husband

Mattie Johnston and S. C. Johnston, her husband

D. F. Reichard and Lena Reichard, his wife

to

J. C. Stenz

Their undivided three-quarter interest in the property of the 1909 probate. For \$17,250.00.

1929 Easement for public highway. Acknowledged 3 Jan. 1929, filed  
3 Jan. 1929 in

Marion County, Iowa, Deed Records 62, p. 104

J. C. Stenz and Effa E. Stenz, his wife

to

State of Iowa

This easement is of 3.54 acres and runs across the northeast corner of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 11. This is presently (1976) State Highway 92. For \$2808.00.

1944 Warranty Deed, 29 Feb. 1944, filed 14 Mar. 1944 in  
Marion County, Iowa, Deed Record 69, p. 407

J. C. Stenz and E. Estelle Stenz, his wife

to

Hubert H. Oostrum



JOHN REICHARD HOUSE  
HABS No. IA-55 (8)

The portion of the E  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 11, Twp. 75 N, Range 19 W of the 5th P.M. south of State Highway 92, and other land, totaling 111.88 acres. For \$6712.80.

1957 Resolution, 11 June 1957, filed 2 July 1957 in  
Marion County, Iowa, Miscellaneous Record BB, p. 351

Iowa State Highway Commission

to

Whom It May Concern

The resolution includes a map, which includes a survey of the house site in the E  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 11, Twp. 75 N, Range 19 W of 5 P.M. The area of this parcel is given as 31.88 acres.

1958 Probate, recorded in

Marion County, Iowa, Probate Record 126, p. 216

Hubert H. Oostrum died intestate 1 Apr. 1958, leaving the following heirs, all of legal age:

Opal Oostrum, spouse RR 3 Knoxville, Iowa

La Mertia Oostrum, daughter RR 3 Knoxville, Iowa

Phyllis Austin, daughter 5408 SW 3rd St. Place, Des Moines, Ia.

At the time of his death, Hubert Oostrum owned the part of the E  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 11, Twp. 75 N, Range 19, West of the 5 PM, and other land, all totaling 111.88 acres and of an estimated value of \$8000.

1959 Warranty Deed, 5 Jan. 1959, filed 6 Feb. 1959 in

Marion County, Iowa, Land Deed Record 78, p. 638

La Mertia Oostrum, unmarried

Phyllis Austin and Lloyd C. Austin, her husband

to

Opal Oostrum

Their undivided two-third interest in Hubert H. Oostrum's real estate.

1964 Land Contract, 1 Apr. 1964, filed 1 Apr. 1964 in

Marion County, Iowa, Miscellaneous Record KK, p. 387

Opal Oostrum

to

Richard D. Wilson

Same 111.88 acres as mentioned in Hubert Oostrum's 1958 probate.

For \$6500.00: \$50 down payment, \$450 on 1 May 1964, \$50 per month thereafter.

1964 Warranty Deed, 14 Dec. 1964, filed 15 Dec. 1964 in

Marion County, Iowa, Land Record 87, p. 100

Opal Oostrum, unmarried

to

Richard Wilson

Given in satisfaction of the Land Contract of 1 Apr. 1964.

1964 Warranty Deed 15 Dec. 1964, filed 15 Dec. 1964 in

Marion County, Iowa, Land Deed Record 87, p. 99

Richard D. Wilson and Charlotte Wilson, his wife

to

William Oostrum and Hazel Oostrum, joint tenants with full  
rights of survivorship

All of the E  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 11 south of State Highway 92  
and other land.

1975 Warranty Deed 9 Sept. 1975, filed 18 Sept. 1975 in  
Marion County, Iowa, Book 000, p. 13

William Oostrum and Hazel Oostrum, his wife

to

State of Iowa

Same property as mentioned in the 1964 deed.

Original plan and construction: The plan is a typical one for a mid-nineteenth-century farmhouse. The framing system is not balloon frame, but it does use studs and joists at sixteen inches on center. The skill with which the details of construction are worked out--especially the brickwork and the millwork of the pointed-arch windows--suggests a level of ingenuity higher than one would expect to find in a small central Iowa town at this time. The builder must have been following detailed drawings that were well done and produced elsewhere.

Alterations and additions: At some time the two rooms west of the kitchen were modified so that the south part of the space that they occupied was converted into a bathroom and the rest served as a single room. Doorway locations to these rooms were changed. The rear porch

was enclosed with wooden siding, a door, and several windows, and the cellar floor was concreted.

In April 1964, when Richard Wilson purchased the property from Opal Oostrum, he began extensive alterations of the interior, removing all lath and plaster (except that at the small second-floor closet and at the stairway to the cellar) and all plaster from the inner surfaces of the brick walls, which he cleaned free of all plaster (5).

In December 1964 William Oostrum, brother-in-law of Opal Oostrum, purchased the property from Wilson and installed gypsum wallboard throughout the first floor, applying it on 2 x 2 furring at the brick walls. He insulated the house and installed a gas-burning central warm-air furnace, apparently serving the first floor only. The second floor was not used as living space (5). After selling the property to the state, he removed everything of possible value from the house and used it as a barn for the storage of hay.

Historical events associated with the building: None are known. In a history of Marion County, there occurs the following listing under Company I of the 33rd Infantry of the United States Army during the Civil War: "John Reichard, Aug. 9: promoted to first lieutenant March 26, 1863; resigned July 26, 1863" (6, p. 494). The initial portion of D. F. Reichard's obituary is given below (1):

D. F. (Frank) Reichard, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Reichard, was born of pioneer parents February 4, 1866, at the Reichard homestead, five miles east of Knoxville on the old state highway from Knoxville to Oskaloosa. He died at his home June 26, 1939, at the age of 73 years, 4 months, 22 days. He was educated in the schools of Marion County and on attaining manhood's years chose the occupation of his father--farming--for his vocation.

He was married February 8, 1892 to Miss Clara Allien Stanz, and immediately they erected a new cottage beside the beautiful home of his father, which had been noted for years as one of the beauty spots between Knoxville and Oskaloosa. Here he and his young wife began their new home where with the buoyance of youth they could brighten and cheer the home of the aged parents....

Ill health compelled Mr. Reichard to leave the farm in 1903, and he entered the real estate business in Knoxville, moving his family to the present residence on Main Street, which has been his home continuously since that time....

ARCHITECTURAL REPORT

Condition of the fabric: The house was demolished because it lay in the right of way for a relocated portion of State Highway 92. The last private owner, who had lived in the house, had gutted it. He had salvaged the interior doors and the interior wood trim and had placed them in a shed on the farm where he was then living, which was near and just north of the Reichard house. I inspected these items to measure them. Bob Leeper in Knoxville had purchased the interior balustrade and had them at his home, where I inspected and measured them. Most of the rafters, ceiling joists, partitions, and the floors and floor framing had been removed. The brickwork showed few signs of erosion and mortar was intact except in the vicinity of the chimneys built into the walls, where some of it appeared to have leached away. There was little evidence of differential settlement of the exterior walls. The craftsmanship of the brickwork was good. However the wooden front porch was dilapidated from years without proper roofing or painting.

Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Omitting the front porch, the plan of the house may be circumscribed by a square 36'-4" on a side. The house had two stories, but the second story was placed within an attic whose extent covered the entire first floor. There was a cellar under a part of the front portion of the house. The plan was L-shaped, with the kitchen in the rear wing of the L.

2. Foundations: Yellow-brown limestone whose ashlar surfaces were visible at the exterior. In the cellar, the stone blocks were seen to

be about 10" high and 24" wide, and their surfaces were irregular.

3. Wall construction, finish, and color: The exterior walls were dark red brick with a hard surface. At arched openings there were two courses of rowlock bricks. There were no header bricks visible at the front wall, but at all other walls headers occurred every eighth course counting from the bottom of the wall. Headers were visible at the inner surfaces of all brick walls, including those of the front wall. The mortar joints were  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick and the brick dimensions were 8" x 4" x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " approximately. The inner bricks were soft bricks, lighter in color than the exterior bricks, and surprisingly light in weight. The first-floor walls had a 2" cavity; the second-floor walls had a 1" cavity. The outer wythe of brick was two bricks thick, and the inner wythe, one. The pointed arches were constructed in the outer brickwork only, as were the lintels and sills, which were of a fine quality whitish-gray limestone nicely tooled. At the interior of all openings in the exterior wall, the spanning member was a hewn timber lintel. At the front door, where the porch roof conceals the lintel, the exterior lintel was a similar timber.

4. Structural system, framing: Brick bearing wall construction with wood-frame floor and roof system. Balloon framing was not used. Floor joists spanned across the building. Bearing partitions running perpendicular to the direction of the floor joists rested on 2" thick sills set in 2" deep notches in the joists. The studs of bearing partitions running parallel to the joists were cut with a 2" wide tongue projecting between the pair of joists on which the partition rests. These joists

were spaced 2" apart and the tongue of the studs was nailed through the joists. Non-bearing partitions had sills, which rested upon the floor boards.

5. Porches: The side porch had plain wooden posts and beams and a concrete floor. The front porch was of wood construction. Its floor, ceiling, and roof deck were of tongue-and-groove wood. Its pillars and plasters were hollow boxes. The decorative moldings, jigsaw work, brackets, and modillions were also of wood, nailed in place. There was evidence in the brickwork of a railing at the roof of this porch.

6. Chimneys: The two side gables and the rear gable had stove chimney flues built into the thickness of the brick walls, rising at one side of the second-story windows and, at the north and south walls, rising diagonally above the window in order to penetrate the roof at the ridge. Above the roof line these chimneys had been removed. All three of these chimney flues had 6½" diameter openings high in the second floor walls, presumably for receiving metal stovepipes. In the floor of the second story both near the rear gable and near the east gable were 8½" diameter holes, suggesting that the stovepipe from a stove in the room below passed through metal thimbles inserted in these openings and into the second-story rooms to heat them, entering the chimney flue at the second story. Since the joists and flooring of the second story near the west gable had been removed, I could not check for a similar hole in the floor there. However, at the first floor in the kitchen wall there was an additional opening which connected with the chimney flue. This opening was plugged with a hard, light gray mortar, different from the



brickwork mortar. Possibly the kitchen stove was at different times connected with the flue at either place, depending on whether the added heat from the stovepipe was wanted or not in the room above. At the west wall there was a similar second opening to the chimney at the first floor, similarly plugged. Recently the house had been heated with a warm-air furnace with a metal flue and chimney installed for it at the north wall of the east front room.

7. Doorways and doors: The front door had sidelights and a transom. The door was a four-panel door, the center stile and rail forming a cross, with the horizontal well below mid height. The back door was of a similar type and had a small transom above it. The second-story door to the porch roof was of pointed-arch form, glazed in its upper part, and having a double pointed-arch pattern described by its muntins.

8. Windows and shutters: There were no shutters, nor evidence of them. All first- and second-story windows are sash type, 6/6, of the same size and design, with the six pointed-arch windows having been formed by modifying this same size and shape of sash by means of a thin skirting fastened to the outside of the upper sash so that in its frame it appears from the exterior to be of pointed-arch shape. At the interior of these sash one may look through the glass and see the back of the skirting. It would seem then that the sash were manufactured products, some of which have been cleverly modified.

9. Roof: Shape, covering: The main roofs were gabled and are covered with white mineral-surfaced asphalt-felt shingles. The side porch roof formed a hip at the northeast corner and was similarly roofed. Both

probably originally had wood shingles. The roof of the front porch slopes slightly away from the house and appeared to have lacked roofing for many years.

Eaves: The eaves and bargeboards of the front part of the house were the main visual delight. They were jigsawn. The pattern was not applied, but was integral. At the gable three peaks and at the four lowpoints of the end gables there were wooden pendants. It is not known if the pendants at the peaks are the lower continuation of finials that originally rose above the roof line, as was often the case.

Dormers: There were none.

Interior:

1. Floor plans. Bearing partitions were intact, at least in part. Evidence of nonbearing partitions was present in impressions on the floor boards and "shadows" on the exterior walls. Door locations were verified by finding impressions on floor boards and by checking for locations of original studs. At the first and second floors, the front part of the house has a central hall, which contained the main stairway. There was one room on each side of this hall at each floor. The cellar lay under the hall and the east room. The rear portion of the house had two small rooms at the west side, with the kitchen comprising the rest of this portion. The side porch adjoined the east side of the rear wing. At the second floor of the rear wing there was one large room.

The original room use is not known. The identity of the kitchen seems certain. In farmhouses of the mid nineteenth century, rooms such as the larger room adjoining it on the west were usually a bedroom, and the smaller one a pantry. The west front room, with its wide door, may

have been the parlor--kept for guests--and the east front room may have been the family sitting room. The door connecting with the kitchen suggests this use. The second-floor rooms were probably bedrooms, the large rear one possibly being used by hired farm laborers.

2. Stairways: The principal stairway was of softwood construction, except for the newel post and the balusters, which were hardwood. The interior stairway to the cellar was of softwood construction with open risers. The hatchway stairway to the cellar has stone steps, each a single block.

3. Flooring: The cellar is concrete. Since the riser of lowest step of each stairway to the cellar is smaller than the rest, the concrete floor must have been poured on top of the previous floor. The flooring of the first and second stories is fir planks, tongue and groove,  $5\frac{1}{4}$ " faces exposed. The fir was painted.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The exterior walls were originally plastered directly on the inner surfaces of the brick. Partitions and ceilings were plaster on sawn wood-lath. Nail holes and "shadows" on rafters and studs provided evidence of the original lath and plaster, which remained only in the small second-floor closet and at the interior stairway to the cellar. In the latter location there were a few scraps of wallpaper. Previous to the recent gutting of the house,  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick gypsum wallboard had been installed to replace the original lath and plaster of the first floor, which had been removed. The gypsum wallboard was furred out from the exterior walls.

5. Doorways and doors: All doors that were salvaged had the same pattern of panels as the front door. They were all 1 3/8" thick and of softwood, as was the front door.

6. Special decorative features and trim: The interior trim of the front door was elaborate. At the first floor, plinth blocks were used under door and window trim in the hall and two front rooms. In the latter, window jamb trim came below the window sill, butting on the plinth blocks.

7. Notable hardware: The hardware was quite plain. Some of the salvaged doors retained their surface-mounted latchsets with china knobs. Hinges were two-knuckle butts with the pin fastened into the jamb leaf of the hinge. All hardware was steel or iron.

8. Mechanical equipment: The house had been wired for electricity. Its first story was heated by a hot-air furnace and the first-story ceilings and walls had been insulated with fiberglass insulation. A bathroom had been installed at the west end of the former bedroom west of the kitchen, with a septic field close to the house outside. There were several wells near the house.

Site and surroundings:

1. General setting. The house was oriented with the front facing south and was approached from the gravel road approximately ninety feet away. A gravel driveway entered the property from this gravel road. The driveway extended north, passed the house, then turned eastward and came close by the back of the house, stopping at the porch off the kitchen.

At the front of the house was a wooden plank bridge which spanned the ditch beside the gravel road, indicating that at one time one could approach the front door of the house on foot from this road. Across the road to the south and in several other places in the general locality, gullies twenty to forty feet deep, the result of previous strip mining operations, scar the landscape.

2. Historic landscape design: Plantings of large deciduous trees to the west, north, and east of the house remained.

3. Outbuildings: The principal outbuildings were a granery and a barn, both lying west of the house and to the rear of it. The granery, which was the closer to the house, contained a drive-in area, a corridor at right angles to this, and three bins. The barn was a rectangular-plan building three bays wide and three bays deep, with a second story above the full depth of two and a half bays of the width. A general visual inspection from the ground revealed no machine-cut nails in either structure; all nails were cut wire nails. Thus, construction around the turn of the century at the earliest is indicated. Other outbuildings are shown on the site plan of the measured drawings. William Oostrum, the last private owner, identified these buildings.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Adair, Helen. Letter, 1 Nov. 1976, to Wesley Shank, in which a typewritten copy of D. F. Reichard's obituary was included. He died 26 June 1939.
2. A. T. Andrea's Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa. Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, ca. 1972 (a reprint of the original, Chicago: Andreas Atlas Co., 1875).
3. History of Marion County, Iowa. Des Moines: Union Historical Co., 1881.
4. McFarland, Julien E. The Pioneer Era on the Iowa Prairies. Lake Mills, Iowa: Graphic Publishing Co., 1969.
5. Oostrum, William. Conversation, 12 August 1976, with Wesley Shank.
6. Poppeliers, John; Chambers, S. Allen; and Schwarz, Nancy B. "What Style Is It?" Part 2. Historic Preservation 28, No. 3 (July-Sept. 1976), 34-43.

Prepared by Wesley I. Shank, architect, February 1977.

Dates of visits to the property: 12, 13, 16, and 24 August 1976.

### PROJECT INFORMATION

As a step in the design process for a new highway corridor, an Environmental Impact Statement is prepared. The research necessary to prepare the statement includes the examination of the impact of the proposed project on the environment, both natural and socio-cultural. Aspects as diverse as noise impacts and rural bus routes are examined to determine the overall effects of the project. One area of the research concerns the impact on architectural, historical and archaeological resources within the limits of the proposed right-of-way. The Department of Transportation maintains an annual contract with the Office of State Archaeologist to conduct archaeological surveys to provide input into the research and planning for the corridor. Since 1976, this contract has been expanded to allow the Highway Survey Archaeologist to act as coordinator with historians and architects to prepare a complete cultural resource document encompassing archaeology, history, and architecture.

The project which is the focus of this report was identified as a potential National Register Site by Adrian Anderson, State Historic Preservation Officer, in a letter to the Iowa State Highway Commission dated January 15, 1974. In this letter Mr. Anderson stated that this Gothic Revival house was worth preserving if at all feasible. He went on to say that if the house must be displaced a full architectural study of the building should be made prior to its destruction. Between January and June, 1974, the State Historic Preservation Officer explored the possibilities of preservation of the structure with the landowner and

the Knoxville Historical Society. In a letter to the Highway Commission dated June 18, 1974, Mr. Anderson stated his position regarding the structure as follows:

Our position is this, the home might qualify for the National Register, because of its architecture, but even if the Commission took steps to preserve the site, no one locally is interested so preservation is really not possible.

Since we recognize that there is no rational way to insure preservation of the site, we have no choice but to be satisfied with an HABS type study for our files.

Since the decision by the State Historic Preservation Officer was to require a Historic American Building Survey (HABS) type study, planning was initiated for the survey to be conducted after the property was purchased by the Department of Transportation. In August, 1976, a meeting was held with Mr. Wesley Shank, Professor of Architecture at Iowa State University and specialist in historic architecture, to retain him to conduct the HABS study. Fieldwork was conducted during the month of August, 1976, and the final report was submitted by Mr. Shank in February, 1977.

The lack of sentiment for preservation in place by the community, the ongoing deterioration, and the systematic destruction of the interior of the structure by the last owner left as the only positive alternative a set of measured drawings and photographs. While the house is now missing from the landscape, at least complete documentation, historic and architectural, still exists. With the disappearance of so many older structures without a trace this ranks as a significant step forward by the Department of Transportation.

John Hotopp  
Highway Archaeologist  
February, 1977